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FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8380
INFO RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 9754
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1766
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1758
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1717
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEPGDA/USEUCOM JIC VAIHINGEN GE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JCS NMCC WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1724
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1768

UNCLAS DUSHANBE 001575

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [TI](#)

SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN: FORMER DCA CHAIRMAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

11. (U) A Tajik court sentenced former Drug Control Agency Chairman, Lieutenant General Ghaffor Mirzoyev August 11 to life imprisonment for planning to overthrow Tajikistan's President Rahmonov. Mirzoyev was arrested August 6, 2004 and officially charged with 36 crimes including attempt to topple the regime, murder, illegal possession of massive amounts of firearms, drug smuggling and illegal privatization of government property. The General Prosecutor's office asked for the death penalty as punishment. However, Tajikistan has an official moratorium on the death penalty and Mirzoyev received life in prison. Mirzoyev pled not guilty to all charges and will appeal the court decision and sentencing. Fifteen of his supporters have also been imprisoned.

12. (SBU) According to the press and Embassy sources, the trial was closed from the public because evidence was deemed as "state secrets," which is legal under Tajik law. A fellow Kulobi,

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Mirzoyev was one of President Rahmonov's closest advisors during the Tajik civil war, leading the People's Front against the opposition, and could have been privy to information that may be detrimental to Rahmonov's reputation. Mirzoyev claimed he murdered several opposition figures on instructions of the president's administration. Several media outlets also report one reason for Mirzoyev's imprisonment could be that he was involved in the struggle for control of TadAZ, Tajikistan's state-owned aluminum smelter and a primary source of revenue for the government. Mirzoyev led the elite Presidential Guard armed forces between 1995 and 2004, and was briefly head of the country's anti-narcotics agency before his 2004 arrest. Mirzoyev accumulated wealth by privatizing small companies and government buildings, all of which the government now claims was done illegally. He also allegedly profited from drug trafficking. As Mirzoyev gained confidence in his power, he publicly opposed Rahmonov and made it clear that he wanted to be the next president.

13. (SBU) COMMENT: Even though Mirzoyev may appeal the sentencing, it is extremely unlikely he will be released from prison. The government would not risk allowing the "state secrets" that forced the trial behind doors to be released.

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Mirzoyev probably committed many of the charges brought against

him, but it is the lack of transparency and selective use of the law that suggests political will is driving the case. Mirzoyev joins the ranks of Mahmadruzzi Iskandarov, former chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan imprisoned for 23 years, who dared to publicly challenge Rahmonov as he approaches the finish line at the November presidential election. END COMMENT.

HUSHEK